(c) The Conference also resolved that the current operation on distribution need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

(d) It was also resolved that Rural Electrification may be treated as a Basic Minimum Service under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana and Rural Electrification may be completed by the end of the Tenth plan *i.e.* by the year 2007.

Power shortage in Delhi

2820. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Year Day was welcomed in darkness by Delhiites;

(b) whether the power supply in Delhi even in winter is cut daily for different localities by rotation during a day;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor even after an assurance by the Minister; and

(d) what steps are being taken to meet the demand of power in Delhi during the coming summer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Tne power supply on New Year's Day (1st January, 2001) was normal. However, a major grid disturbance resulted in the collapse of the Northern Region Grid on 2nd January, 2001 leading to near total supply failure in the Northern Region including Delhi.

(b) and (c) Electricity distribution in a State falls within the purview of State Government/State Electricity Board concerned. Due to spurt in demand arising mainly from weather beating loads during winter months, Delhi faced energy shortage varying from 6.7% to 10.3% and peak shortage from 13.5% to 15.5% between December, 2000 and February, 2001. In order to meet the gap between demand and availability, load shedding was carried out by Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) in different localities

by rotation in Delhi during peak periods depending upon day to day availability.

Power shortage in Delhi is attributable to the following:

(i) No capacity addition in Delhi during past several years;

(ii) Shortage of peaking capacity;

(iii) Transmission and Distribution bottelnecks within DVB system;

(iv) Low voltage;

(v) Low frequency in Northern Grid; and

(vi) Low generation at DVB's power stations.

(d) Enhanced allocation from unallocated quota of the central sector stations in the Northern Region to Delhi, preventive maintenance of transmission lines and thermal units including Badarpur Thermal Power Station of which the entire output is made available to Delhi, bilateral arrangements for supply of power from Himachal Pradesh to Delhi, assistance from Eastern Region after completion of termination work of Biharshariff-Allahabad 400 KV D/C line at Sarnath by April, 2001, etc. are some of the steps being taken to meet the demand of power in Delhi during the coming summer months of 2001.

Comprehensive power policy for power projects

† 2821. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive power policy for power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether providing single window approval to the power projects will also be considered in it; and

(d) the details in this regard?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.